

Chemical Weapons Disposal Program Oversight

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency's (CMA) (Provisional) mission is to dispose of the nation's chemical weapons stockpile, while ensuring the safety of workers, the public and the environment. CMA reports directly to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisitions, Logistics, and Technology. The president, U.S. Congress, and federal, state and independent organizations also monitor the program closely.

The following national and international agencies are among those that play a role in overseeing the program's activities:

National Oversight

U.S. Congress

- Maintains legislative oversight of the chemical demilitarization program
- Provides programmatic direction and funding
- Reviews progress and expenditures

National Academy of Sciences

- Provides independent scientific and technical advice
- Provides program oversight through the National Research Council
- Investigates safety and performance aspects of the program

Department of Health and Human Services/ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Receives and reviews all chemical agent monitoring data
- Reviews all proposed weapons disposal operations
- Certifies public and worker health and welfare

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- Provides oversight on all environmental aspects of the program

State and Local Agencies

- Enforces EPA and state regulations
- Enacts stringent state laws to protect public health, worker safety and the environment
- Oversees disposal operations to ensure compliance with federal and state regulations
- Controls emergency preparedness programs

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

- Provides safety oversight for disposal plant employees
- Enforces safety regulations regarding worker safety and health

Office of the Secretary of Defense

- Reviews all disposal site plans and safety requirements
- Confirms that all Department of Defense and Department of the Army safety regulations are met
- Maintains overall responsibility for the program

International Oversight

Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)

- Prohibits the development, production, stockpile and use of chemical weapons
- Requires each signatory party possessing chemical weapons to destroy them in an environmentally safe manner
- Forbids the disposal of chemical weapons by open-pit burning, land burial or dumping in any body of water

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

- Oversees treaty implementation

To learn more about this program, please call the CMA Public Outreach and Information Office at (800) 488-0648 or ask at your local outreach office.

For more information,
contact the
Public Outreach and
Information Office of the
Chemical Materials
Agency (Provisional)
1(800) 488-0648 or
www.cma.army.mil